(ix) Government of India have constituted a Committee of experts on January 27, 2003 under the Chairmanship of Dr. R.A. Mashelkar, Director General, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) to undertake a comprehensive review of the drugs regulatory system in the country including the problem of spurious and substandard drugs and recommend remedial measures to deal with this problem effectively. The Government has initiated steps to study the measures recommended in the report recently submitted by the expert committee.

Mashelkar Committee Report on Spurious Drugs

533. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mashelkar Committee set up to look into spurious drugs has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the recommendations made by the Committee;

(c) whether Government would bring a comprehensive Bill before the House to amend the Drugs and Cosmetic Act;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps Government have taken/proposed to take to upgrade the Central Drug Standard Control Organisation to the level of the Central Drug Administration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) (a) to (f) The Expert Committee headed by Dr. R.A. Mashelkar has submitted its report to Government in two parts. An interim report was submitted in August 2003, dealing with penalties for various offences under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. A summary of the recommendations contained in the interim report is given in the Statement *(See* below)

Government has initiated steps to bring forth a legislation for amending the Drugs and Cosmetics Act on the suggested by the committee.

The committee has submitted the final report to the Government in November, 2003. Government has initiated steps to examine the report

of the Committee including the proposal to upgrade the CDSCO to the level of the Central Drugs Administration.

Statement

Recommendations of the Committee on penalties for offences provided in the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1954

(a) The penalty for sale and manufacture of spurious drug that causes grievous hurt or death should be enhanced from life imprisonment to death. Even the penalty for manufacture and sale of spurious drugs that do not cause grievous hurt or death should also be made more severe.

(b) The offences related to spurious drugs should be made cognizable and non-bailable. The bail, if considered by the court should be granted only after a period of three months.

(c) The penalty for not disclosing the source of purchase of drugs by a dealer should be made stringent.

(d) A provision should be included in the Drugs and Cosmetics Act to enable the Central and State Governments to designate special courts for speedy trial of spurious drugs cases.

(e) A provision for compounding of offences should be included in the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

(f) Under Drugs and Cosmetics Act, besides the Drug Inspectors, Police should also be authorized to file prosecution for offences related to spurious drugs.

CGHS Dispensary in Gurgaon

534. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of CGHS dispensaries presently functioning in Gurgaon;

(b) whether Government intend to open another CGHS dispensary in near future for the residents of Sector-56 and nearby areas; and

(c) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) (a) One.